The Fire Service in the United States of America

Volunteers comprise 65% of firefighters in the United States.

In 2016 there were

- 35,320,000 fire department calls
- 22,750,500 medical aid calls
- 1,342,000 fire calls
- 11,227,500 other

The first fire company in the United States was founded in 1678.

In 2018 a fire department responded to a fire every 24 seconds.

The number of volunteer firefighters reached a low of 682,600 in 2017.

Call volume has tripled in the last 30 years.

The time donated by volunteer firefighters saves localities across the country an estimated $46.9 billion per year.

In 2016 there were

- 2,316 are mostly career
- 5,405 are mostly volunteer
- 19,313 are all volunteer
- 2,785 are all career
- 29,819 fire departments in the country

The volunteer fire service is an aging population. In communities under 2,500:

- 24% are under 30
- 23% are 30-39
- 21% are 40-49
- 32% are 50 and up

Volunteers are often the first line of defense during:

- Fires
- Emergency Medical Incidents
- Natural Disasters
- Vehicle Accidents
- Hazardous Materials Incidents
- Terrorist & Active Shooter Events
- Search and Rescue

Recruitment and Retention Challenges Include:

- Time Demands
- Increased Training Requirements
- Increasing Call Volume
- Aging Communities
- Leadership Problems
- Internal Conflict

Sources: National Fire Protection Association; National Volunteer Fire Council

www.nvfc.org